



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

irrevocable loss and the eternal gain of an item in the sum of knowledge; and what value these items from the unique treasure of ancient Egypt and Babylonia have, the men of a thousand years hence, not we, are the rightful judges. We may be assured that they will accept our facts gratefully, and hand us back our theories and fancies as things which were their own reward in their own day.

The real peril to which these precious records are exposed and the imperfection of extant copies cry for a successor to the great Prussian expedition of 1842-45. Few are at work in the field. Here and there a fragment is published which has lately been unearthed, has captured the fancy of some amateur, or excited the special interest of a traveling *savant*. For the rest, the *Mission archéologique française*, under M. Chassinat, and the Archæological Survey of the Egypt Exploration Fund, make regular additions to the monumental records. Whether the limitations that French copyists observe are atoned for by the wide field they cover, must be submitted to the judgment of the future. The high standard of the Anglo-American organization is assured in the person of its devoted director, Mr. F. Ll. Griffith; but the output is correspondingly restricted, and it has long looked for sister-expeditions to divide the field. There is a rumor that this salvation is to come shortly from America, which has already shown devotion to pure research in Egypt. It would be a fine token of gratitude for the libraries with which centuries of European labor have provided her, if she helped in this much-needed way to make known to the Old World its oldest past.

N. DE GARIS DAVIES.

TEL EL-AMARNA, EGYPT.

#### THE LATEST FROM EGYPT.

It is hardly necessary to tell our readers that the place from which Mr. Davies writes his interesting letter is the famous deserted city, Tel el-Amarna, which gave its name to the now well-known collection of cuneiform letters found there. Subscribers to the Archæological Survey will be familiar with the excellent volumes which Mr. Davies has already published; but if they could stand for days on a torturing ladder, straining the eyes upon the battered walls in the gloom of one of those Amarna tombs, as the present writer has done, they would appreciate the personal self-sacrifice, for the sake of science, involved in the work he is doing.

A letter from Mr. Theodore M. Davis, of Newport, brings good news of the progress of his excavations at Thebes. He has been at

work for several seasons on the royal tombs in the well-known Valley of the Kings there. Year before last he discovered and opened the tomb of Thutmose IV., of the XVIIIth dynasty, containing, among other things, the king's chariot, or the front of it, which was all that had survived. It bears reliefs of battle scenes, which are among the noblest specimens of ancient art and quite alter our conception of the art of the XVIIIth dynasty. Mr. Davis's publication of this tomb is now just appearing. At present he is completing the excavation of the tomb of that remarkable Queen Hatshepsut, which he discovered last season. He has now reached the sepulchral chamber, which is at the end of a gallery descending 750 feet into the limestone of the mountain! It contains two fine and massive sarcophagi of red sandstone, belonging to the queen and her father, Thutmose I. Two connected chambers are filled with débris, which must be carried up the long gallery in order to clear them; but as soon as this work can be done, it is hoped that much royal mortuary furniture of value may be found, and possibly inscriptions which may throw light on the tangled family history of the time.

Beside the great terraced temple of Der-el-Bahri, the work of this same queen, and just over the bluffs from her tomb, Mr. H. R. Hall, of the British Museum, has been conducting excavations, with singular success. He has found a small temple of the XIth dynasty, showing similar terraced construction. It therefore undoubtedly furnished the model for the beautiful terraced temple of the great queen, the origin of which has always been problematical.

The German expedition, at work at Abusir, has found a causeway leading up from the Nile valley to the desert plain of the Sahara, where the pyramids of the Vth dynasty were built. It was faced on either side with blocks of masonry bearing beautiful reliefs, just such as Herodotus describes on the one at Gizeh. Only one fragment of the reliefs has thus far been found.

JAMES H. BREASTED.

BERLIN, GERMANY.